

ought to allow at least some representation so the people will have the faith that it was done correctly and that they can live with the way we as a Legislature tried to resolve the issue.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Sieck. Could we have order in the Chamber, please. There is quite a bit of mumbling going around that is audible and prevents the speaker from being heard.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President and members of the body, I am going to stand up and support Senator Beutler's amendment. I feel that we have to compromise this much if we are going to get anything here at all, and I feel this is an important bill. I feel we need to look at what is happening and need to correct the wage standards in our state. And I can't see too much difficulty in having an outside person look into this if they do the job that they are asked to do. And I do see some problems with the labor union in the process of negotiating. So I am going to support Senator Beutler's amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Labedz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, I rise in opposition to Senator Beutler's amendment. As Senator Newell indicated, we have already eliminated one union representative and, after all, LB 700, the intent of LB 700 is to establish a committee to review and analyze the personnel system of the State of Nebraska to develop the guidelines and standards for a very comprehensive study which will determine whether and to what extent an equitable compensation relationship exists. It commits the largest employer in the state, the State of Nebraska, to a policy of establishing equitable compensation between female and male employees of the state personnel system. Eliminating the union membership will not be fair to the employees. If you look at the membership as it now stands, two at large, one Status of Women, one union representative, two State Senators and one Department of Personnel Chairman or Director who will act as chairperson. I think that is a totally fair committee and the input of a